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# Cedars, August 2011

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# CEDARS

The Student News Publication of Cedarville University

August 2011



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#### Cedars staff

**Emily Severance**

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**Rachel Stephens**

Assistant Managing Editor for Visuals

**Holly McClellan**

Arts and Entertainment Editor

**Bekah Cvetich**

News Editor

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**Kelly Gollihue, Jennifer Hodges,**

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Online editors/Webmasters

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# Just Sayin' ...

## A Little Wisdom For That Freshman Year

As I filled out my application for Cedarville University and printed my intended major, I promised I'd be the one freshman who actually knew for sure what she was going to study. I alone would overcome the stereotype, I thought. I would study Secondary English Education.

Then I started taking classes. I took Composition and loved it, but we had to read books. Boring books. Then I thought if I was a teacher, I'd have to make my kids read boring books. And I'd have to read boring papers about those boring books. So teaching was out.

Next I moved to Comprehensive Communication because, well, I like to communicate. A little too much usually, but I figured majoring in it might make that acceptable. Then I took Intro to Communication Arts and realized that zero people in the entire world are going to pay me to socialize. I had to specialize in something. So I chose journalism. A little talking to people, a little writing, lots of late nights and coffee runs ... seemed to fit my personality. It took me all year to realize it, but I was born to be a journalist.

But picking out my major wasn't my only trouble. For some reason, the cafeteria brought me turmoil almost every instance I set foot in it. The first time I tried to get cereal for myself in Chuck's, I thought the little plastic doors on the cereal containers were supposed to snap shut, not just close. So I pushed the Cinnamon



**Bekah Cvetich**

Toast Crunch door closed as hard as I could, and the entire cereal tower collapsed and spit cereal all over me. Some senior guy shuffled up, muffling laughter, and helped me reassemble the cereals. My dignity, however, could not be repaired.

Another time, I was walking out of Chuck's and I had just finished eating with a guy I had taken interest in. I thought I'd be all flirty and look over my shoulder one last time to smile at him as I left. But when I was looking behind me, I wasn't looking in front of me ... obviously ... and in front of me was some poor guy with his tray of food — an innocent victim of my faulty flirting. I accidentally stepped on the back of his shoe while trying to be cute, and he flung face first into the ground, his tray and food clattering to the carpet in front of him. My response? I ran. Jerk move, I know, but I was too embarrassed to function. The guy who witnessed it, well, we never dated.

At the end of my freshman year, once I changed my major and the embarrassing moments at least started to taper off, I realized that the first year of college is a time of figuring things out, a time of growth. It's also a time to get all the embarrassing moments out of the way, because at least I could blame it on being a freshman. I learned to never be afraid of what's ahead, and never be too stubbornly stuck to my own plan because God's going to work His own purpose whether I have my life mapped out or not. I learned to allow myself to make mistakes. I ended up with good stories, and even better, I ended up exactly where God intended for me to be.

## Top tips from upperclassmen

### Study

- Work on homework in the short time frames between classes or meetings — you'll get more done that way.
- Discover the catacomb of hallways in the Lower SSC that are great for when you need a quiet place to study.
- Ten minutes is plenty of time to get between classes, even if you're going across campus. Running will only make you break a sweat.
- Take advantage of the writing center for essays and projects — it's an invaluable asset for writers of all skill levels.

### Eat

- You should not be afraid to try things at Chuck's besides the Home Cooking or Pizza lines. You will enjoy food at Cedarville so much more if you try everything Chuck's has to offer.
- Don't use trays in Chuck's. Period. Trays are neon signs that read "Freshman."
- Manage your caffeine intake.

### Sleep

- Make sure you have an alarm clock that never fails. Nothing is worse than missing class because your alarm didn't go off.
- Get some quality sleep. Staying up late is seemingly inevitable at college, but do the best you can to sleep well; it really matters.

### Play

- Find a mentor.
- Think about joining orgs or groups that share your interests — it's an easy way to make friends and get involved.
- That being said, learn how to say no. You can't possibly do everything.
- Make an effort to meet the people on your hall or in your unit — they can be your go-to people for hanging out or borrowing laundry detergent.
- Really get to know your roommate — their likes and dislikes, music tastes, sleeping patterns, and other assorted eccentricities.
- Don't date right away. Let people grow up first; you change the most your first year of college.
- Read for fun.

### Etc.

- Don't karate kick open a door and think you're cool — people will laugh at you.
- Never draw pictures of your prof in your notebook. They will find out.
- Be aware of the spray that will hit you in the face whenever you walk across the DMC bridge when it is the slightest bit windy. No, that's not rain. It's fountain water.

Cover photo courtesy of  
Scott Huck, Cedarville University



# Freshmen Need to Know

## 10 things you should do at Cedarville before you graduate

### 1. Get a 4.0 mug

*Definition: a utilitarian, coffee-toting trophy awarded to those dedicated students who receive all A's for a semester.*

Yes, it's possible. At the beginning of every semester, a chapel slide announces the names of those who received a 4.0 the previous semester, proof that it can be done. Some who read those names are tallying up how many of them are youth ministry majors, but many others are mustering the courage to declare to the world, "That will be me someday!"

Here's how it's done: Spend some time in the library once in a while. Study for your exams prior to the night before they are to take place. Get a tutor if you're struggling. (For the record, getting a tutor doesn't mean you're stupid. It means you're smart).

And most importantly, don't over-commit yourself to extracurricular activities (one of the most treacherous mistakes an eager freshman can make). Yes, there's more to life than school. But if you put too much on your plate, you might not make it out in one piece. And you'll probably be drinking your coffee out of a stolen Chuck's mug for the remainder of your Cedarville career.

### 2. Be an RA

*Definition: a resident assistant.*

Looking for a campus job? If you want to be an RA for the money, it's definitely not worth the trouble. If you have better reasons, however, you might just find it to be one of the most rewarding jobs you'll ever have.

RA's are the backbone of residence life. Yes, sometimes they're the ones who will tell you if your skirt is too short or to stop texting in chapel. But they're also so much more than that. They are leaders, mentors and friends. They are counselors, listeners and advice givers. They are prayer warriors and snack providers. They are encouragers and affirmers. Their job is to be invested, full-time, in building into others. It's a big responsibility with big eternal value.

So if you want to serve and be committed to investing in the lives of the people you live with, this is the perfect job for you. Not all aspects of the job are fun. Some people don't always get along. Others just don't like to follow the rules. And you'll have to be there to help clean up the mess when things start to fall apart. But with the right attitude and the support of your RD and fellow RAs, you will survive. And not only survive, but really love what you do.



### 3. Get on Stage in Chapel

*Definition: a gut-wrenching, awe-inspiring and often musical experience.*

Chapel. 10 a.m. Every day. It's one of the unique things about Cedarville. And being in front of 3,000 people? That may prove to be one of the best experiences of your life.

This is how you do it: lead worship, perform at Elliv, speak in SGA chapel, receive an award for Honor's Day, pray before chapel or even

rush the stage at an unexpected time. There are countless other opportunities, so find one and get up there.



### 4. Go to JS

*Definition: prom, the Cedarville version.*

Remember your prom? Or for the Christian school crowd, your senior banquet? That's basically what JS (Junior Senior) is, minus the dancing. It's an end-of-the-year formal event for upperclassmen that you should attend at least once. Worried you won't have a date? Muster up the courage to ask someone or go with friends.

JS is more than just an excuse for girls to spend an entire day applying make-up and doing their hair. It's a time for friends to get together and celebrate the end of the year in style. Many of them will be graduating and moving on to a new stage of life, so for them it's one of the last times to go out with some of their friends. There's good food, good music and lots of pretty dresses. Plus, seniors who are walking in May get to go for free. What college student would pass up "free"?

### 5. Win Campus Christmas

*Definition: the dorm-decorating event of the century... that happens every year...*

Christmas open dorms are the main event of fall semester. As students are preparing for finals, they are also frantically collecting costumes, enormous sheets of craft paper and props as they assemble an intense décor strategy. The night before open dorms, everyone works into the morning hours applying last-minute additions and final touches to the walls. And when it's finally show time, their creations are exposed to the entire campus. The RDs and the Deans visit every unit and hall, critically assessing the themes and picking out their favorites. This group is responsible for picking the winners, which is never an easy task.

Some popular themes of the past include "the rapture," where the unit is empty and the only evidences of life are piles of clothes of those who have been taken up to Jesus. Halls have been transformed into forests, castles, underwater aquariums, zombie movies, tropical islands and even Narnia. Some halls try to keep it Christmas themed, but the key to winning is creativity. So try to plan out your theme weeks in advance. The vindication of winning will be worth the sleepless nights of preparation.

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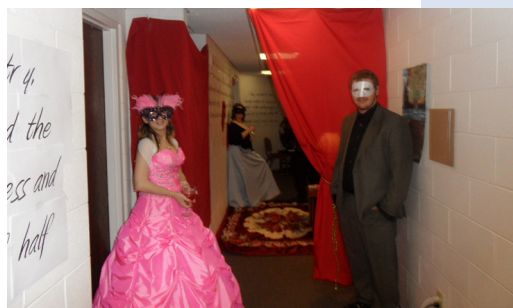
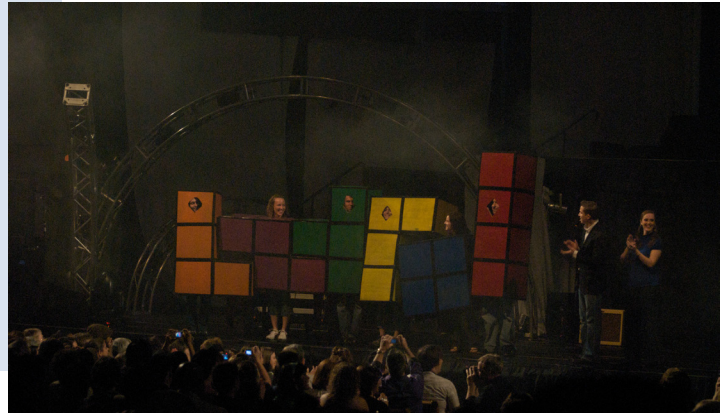


Photo courtesy of Krista Terry

## 6. Win the Costume Contest at Elliv

*Definition: the end-of-the-year concert-costume-party-award-show thing.*

Elliv is the biggest event of the year. To truly understand what it is, you just need to go. It began as a mock awards show in 1999 and rapidly transformed into something else entirely. As per its definition, one of the main themes of the night is a costume contest. The top three costumed groups are invited to the stage where the audience will decide the winners via clap-off. Recent winners include human Tetris pieces and giant Lego men. The top costumes are always intensely crafted and original — go big or go home.



## 7. Go on an MIS trip

*Definition: a short-term missions trip with Cedarville's Missions Involvement Service.*

If you've never gone on a missions trip, you need to. MIS trips are the perfect opportunity. They last from a week to a month, depending on the trip, and will give you the chance to see the world from a different perspective. Trips like these will open your eyes to God's work in other parts of the world and allow you to serve and fellowship with people from all over the world.

The MIS office facilitates trips to dozens of countries and encourages students to go on trips where they can use the skills and talents that God has given them. There are trips specifically designed for nurses, social workers, engineers, businessmen, athletes and musicians. So whatever you're interested in, there's a need waiting to be met.

One unique thing about going on a missions trip in college is that the people you go with also live with you here on campus, which allows teams to bond and grow together as they prepare for their journey. The friendships forged through these trips transcend the boundaries of normal friend groups and allow you to get to know people you would never meet otherwise.



## 8. Go on a Pick-a-date

*Definition: a blind group date where individuals choose partners for their roommates and vice versa. Can also be organized by a single mastermind matchmaker.*

Embrace the awkwardness. Every freshman has asked the question "What is a Pick-a-date?" I hope the answer they received was "a rite of passage" because that's exactly what it is. While it may seem silly, this is probably the most "Cedarville" thing on the list. As rumor has it, Pick-a-dates were invented by girls from Printy who got together and decided that they were tired of waiting around for boys to ask them out, so they took it upon themselves to do the asking. It has since progressed into something so monumental that the tradition is now deeply woven into the fabric of Cedarville's very essence. That means it's kind of a big deal.

They usually consist of a photo scavenger hunt to the Greene, a little awkwardness and a lot of laughs. The worst that can happen is that you'll have spent an evening with an extremely dull or clingy blind date — is that really so bad? The best thing that can happen is that you'll end up marrying your unsuspecting partner (believe it or not, it's happened before). Your experience will probably fall somewhere in between. So what's the risk?

## 9. Paint the Rock

*Definition: a legalized form of vandalism used to commemorate birthdays, holidays, special occasions and for some unfortunate souls, engagements.*

There is a theory that if you chipped all the spray paint off the rock (people have tried but have never reached rock bottom) what you will find is actually a mummified, squished-up freshman who never stood a chance. Or you might find rock.

Upperclassmen usually forget the great excitement that was elicited by the words "Let's paint the rock!" the first time they heard it. To them, it's just a lump on the corner that they pass on their way to Chuck's. But the first time you paint it is exhilarating and memorable.

## 10. Brock to the Rock

*Definition: a frantic parade of man-flesh racing down Cedar Lake Drive a few minutes before curfew.*

What is it about college boys running around campus in their underwear that draws such large crowds? As disgusting as it sounds, this is one event that people line up to watch. On the night of the run, all the guys in Brock Hall secretly alert the rest of campus to their plans. Hundreds of girls line the street, waiting to hear the rumbling roar of man-noises coming from Brock. Some guys are out there too, usually wielding cans of shaving cream or buckets of murky lake water to splash at the exposed runners.

Then they are heard. The man-noises. Moments later, a blur of manliness goes whooshing by, clothed in nothing but undergarments. There are cheers accompanied by yelps of horror as the guys race toward the rock and then back to their dorm. It's over in minutes, but the memory will last a lifetime. As the crowds disperse, a few hefty stragglers continue their jog of shame after being left in the dust by those who are slightly more athletic.